



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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September 6, 2011

The Honorable Kevin Jeffries
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 45x (Jeffries)** – As Introduced 9/2/11- **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Jeffries:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support Assembly Bill 45x, which would repeal the State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee that was adopted as part of the 2011-12 California State Budget. As you know, this fee requires homeowners of habitable structures within an SRA to pay an annual fee for fire prevention services.

Approximately, 100,000 structures in San Bernardino and neighboring Riverside County are located within these areas, subjecting owners of those structures to this new fee. In San Bernardino County property owners within the State Responsibility Areas currently pay an assessment for fire protection and prevention services and the imposition of this fee has the effect of double taxation without any additional benefit. Additionally, this measure raises a number of equity, administrative, legal and logistical issues that will create long-term fiscal concerns as well as the ability to disrupt mutual aid between local, state and federal agencies.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports Assembly Bill 45x. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director, at (909) 387-4280. The County of San Bernardino thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors

NEIL DERRY, Third District
Board of Supervisors